

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

District 3 Slate

January 2010

Third District, County of San Diego

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Slater-Price Is New Chair of Board of Supervisors

In an unanimous vote at its first meeting of the year, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors selected Supervisor Pam Slater-Price as Chairwoman.

The Chair of the board sets the policy tone for the year and is seen by fellow supervisors as the board leader. During the meeting, the board also unanimously voted Fifth District Supervisor Bill Horn Vice Chairman and Fourth District Supervisor Ron Roberts Chair Pro Tem.

Slater-Price succeeded Second District Supervisor Dianne Jacob as the Chair. Chairwoman Slater-Price said she is pleased to have the opportunity to lead the board in what many predict will be a fiscally challenging year for the County of San Diego.

"We'll be facing many hurdles in keeping our government running smoothly as the economy continues to slowly recover," Chairwoman Slater-Price said. "Supervisor Jacob steered the ship deftly through rough seas and passed the torch to me in the best shape we could be in given the circumstances."

Issues facing the County of San Diego
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The new year brings with it changes in responsibility at the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Representing the Third District, Pam Slater-Price was chosen unanimously to serve as chairwoman of the board for 2010. She received the gavel from the outgoing chairwoman, Dianne Jacob, who represents the Second District.

Fairgrounds EIR Gains Comment Extension

Citizens and activists have until Feb. 8 to submit their concerns on the 15-year planned expansion of the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Comments were due in early January on the 4,500-page draft Environmental Impact Report, which outlines not only the expansion plan but also its impact on the environment.

"This extension of the time period to comment on this ambitious expansion is a validation of the interest generated by this project," explained Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, whose Third District includes the fairgrounds. The plan calls for a four-story, 300-room combination condo hotel-conference center, 60,000-square-foot health club, three-story parking structure, three-story administration building and a 48-foot-tall electronic sign facing Interstate 5.

"Issues relating to air quality, the environment, traffic circulation and impacts on the San Dieguito Lagoon wetlands restoration need to be carefully examined," said Chairwoman Slater-Price. "This project must have the scrutiny that is required under state law."



Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm Hall in Sorrento Valley is the site for the 2010 "State of the County" speech to be delivered by Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price at 6 p.m. Feb. 10.

AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

News of Note



Panels Hush For Library

Colorful panels hanging from the ceiling of the Solana Beach Library are there for more than visual effect - they are a sound-mitigation project to deaden the noise in the building. Patrons have commented on how the ceiling panels make the library seem more cozy, bringing down the high ceilings. The panels were funded through a Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant through the office of Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price.

Funding Focuses on Homeless

More than \$4.3 million will assist homeless individuals find shelter and deal with challenges such as mental illness, disabilities and domestic violence. The county Department of Housing and Community Development applied for the funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The money will go to programs in the unincorporated areas and local cities. Third District recipients include the Encinitas-based Community Resource Center, North County Interfaith Council and North County Solutions for Change.

Association Honors Library Chief

San Diego County Library Director José Aponte was named California Library Association "Member of the Year" for 2009. The award was given for "exemplary leadership, dedication and commitment to the vision of the California Library Association." Under Aponte's leadership, San Diego County Library's growth has exploded in the past three years, adding more than 5,000 open hours per year, increasing program attendance by more than 200,000 (112 percent) and doubling circulation to 8.3 million.



ROOTS DOWN...

Volunteers from the Del Mar Garden Club and Friends of the Del Mar Library joined together to finish the new succulent garden that fronts the branch library. Rocks were brought in to hold moisture in the soil while anchoring the new garden, which was partially funded through a Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant by Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price.

County Promotes Going Solar

San Diego County has moved a giant step closer toward helping unincorporated area residents more easily afford rooftop solar electric systems and other energy-efficiency projects.

At the urging of Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price and Supervisor Dianne Jacob, the Board of Supervisors agreed unanimously to join forces with more than a dozen California counties planning to launch a statewide solar financing district.

The goal is to finance installations of rooftop solar electric systems and allow property owners to pay the cost over a period of 20 years on property tax bills. Applications could begin as early as June.

The program, CaliforniaFIRST, is offered through California Communities, sponsored by the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties.

"We're tapping into a program that will use the strength of a statewide pool of participants to keep costs as low as possible," said Chairwoman Slater-Price. "We are going to lower energy bills, cut fuel costs and clear the air at the same time."

California Counties will work directly with homeowners to process applications, determine eligibility, and provide customer services. Visit www.renewfund.com to learn more about CaliforniaFIRST.

MEDICAL EXAMINER COMPLEX MORE THAN 'CSI'



County supervisors tour the new County Medical Examiner and Forensic Center in Kearny Mesa (above) that includes a 12-table autopsy room. Dr. Glenn Wagner (center below) cut the ceremonial ribbon opening the \$85 million project that came in \$12 million under budget and was already paid for through prudent budgeting. Supervisor Greg Cox and Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price (below right) check out the state-of-the-art exhaust system that is part of the new facility.



The importance of forensic investigation in a criminal case has become heightened by such television dramas as "CSI." The reality is the County of San Diego has been playing catch-up in a field that is rapidly evolving.

No longer. The county debuted its 84,000-square-foot facility at 5570 Overland Ave. in Kearny Mesa that includes a bereavement center, expanded toxicology lab, teaching classroom and electronic touch-screens at exam stations to better manage cases.

The center meets silver-level LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"Every day, there are tremendous developments in the forensic sciences. We now have the space to harness those breakthroughs to solve crime, find answers, track trends of disease, trauma, drug addiction and better serve the public," said Dr. Glenn Wagner, the chief medical examiner. "Every case is special; it is that person's last opportunity to tell of their death and their life — a story certainly worth hearing and learning from."

The Board of Supervisors budgeted \$85 million for the facility; the project came in on time and under budget at \$73 million.

Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price opened the 26th annual San Diego County Economic Roundtable (right) that was held in early January at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. "Challenging economic times for governments, businesses, universities, and non-profits creates an opportunity for all of us to come up with new ideas to survive and prosper," said Chairwoman Slater-Price prior to the panel delivering its views on the region's economy and trends for 2010. County Chief Financial Officer Donald F. Steuer provided an overview of how the economy is affecting the County of San Diego. "The impacts of the economic downturn coupled with ongoing state budget reductions create long-term fiscal challenges for local governments that will extend over many budget cycles," Steuer said. The San Diego Economic Roundtable is the region's longest running economic forecasting event, providing insight into changing market conditions and new economic realities. Panelists included Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Point Loma Nazarene University; Marney Cox, chief economist for the San Diego Association of Governments; Sharon Hanley, partner of the Hanley Group; Bill McClelland, vice president of international human resources at Qualcomm; and Alan Gin, associate professor of economics at the USD School of Business Administration. The discussion was moderated by Ryan Ratcliff, assistant professor of economics at the USD School of Business Administration.



AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

CHAIRWOMAN

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include a decline in property tax revenue due to lower values of residential and commercial property, and the state's budget deficit and subsequent proposals in Sacramento to close the estimated \$20 billion-plus shortfall by either delaying or cancelling reimbursements to counties for services mandated by the state Legislature.

"This Board of Supervisors takes pride in the fiscal stewardship that has allowed this county to better weather this economic downturn than other regions in this state," said Chairwoman Slater-Price. "However, the reality is we face difficult decisions this year, in most part due to the crisis at the state level.

"By working together, by promoting innovation and by encouraging the can-do spirit that thrives at the County of San Diego, we will overcome these hurdles and be stronger for when the economy rebounds."

Chairwoman Slater-Price will outline her goals for the year in her "State of the County" address at 6 p.m., Feb. 10 at the Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego. Plenty of seating is available; call (619) 531-5732 to reserve your seat.



To commemorate her leadership in 2009, Supervisor Pam Slater-Price gave outgoing Chairwoman Dianne Jacob a first-edition book that explores President Abraham Lincoln's leadership in time of crisis. Supervisor Slater-Price was chosen unanimously to Chair the Board of Supervisors in 2010.

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